Attorney's Docket No.: 12361-014002

47. **(Amended)** The device as in claim 46 [45], wherein a distance between two adjacent ladder units in said portion increase successively by a factor of 2.

58. **(Amended)** The method as in claim 57, wherein lengths of two different birefringent segments are different by a factor of 2^n, where n is a positive integer factor.

66. **(Amended)** The device as in claim 65, wherein lengths of two different birefringent segments are different by a factor of 2^{M-n}[2^n], where **M and n are positive integers representinghigher and lower order numbers of said two different birefringent segments, respectively, with 1≤ n ≤ (M-1), and M≥2** [n is a positive integer].

75. **(Amended)** The method as in claim 72, wherein lengths of two different birefringent segments are different by a factor of 2^{M-n}[2^n], where **M and n are positive integers representinghigher and lower order numbers of said two different birefringent segments, respectively, with 1≤ n ≤ (M-1), and M≥2** [n is a positive integer].

Attorney's Docket No.: 12361-014002

79. **(Amended)** The method as in claim 78, wherein lengths of two different birefringent segments are different by a factor of $2^{M-n}[2^n]$, where **M and n are positive integers representinghigher and lower order numbers of said two different birefringent segments, respectively, with $1 \leq n \leq (M-1)$, and $M \geq 2$** [n is a positive integer].